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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Solano Community College Receives a Portion of \$15 million Department of Labor Grant to Expand Career Training Programs

FAIRFIELD, CA, SEPTEMBER 25, 2012: On Wednesday, September 19, 2012, the Department of Labor awarded \$500 million to community colleges across the country. The grant funding is governed by the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Initiative. The colleges received the grants to build and expand programs that increase the skills of various Career Technical Training programs workforce.

Solano Community College (SCC) joins a consortium of 10 community colleges in the East Bay in a program called *Design It, Build It, Ship It*, which emphasizes the strengths of the region in innovation of technical programs, advanced manufacturing, and transportation. The funding will help career paths that will address the workforce needs of the region's key industries and assist students to transfer to California State University's (CSUs) or Universities of California (UCs) four-year institutions.

SCC will use the monies to develop new instruction methods for the existing programs in biotechnology, water and wastewater treatment, drafting, welding, and mechatronics. Solano is leading the coordination efforts of the six colleges with Biotechnology and Water/Wastewater technician trainings as the College has served as a pioneer in developing its own robust programs.

Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Superintendent/President, said, "I am pleased by the federal government's awareness of the critical role community college plays in workforce and economic development. We are excited to lead the Biotech and Water/Wastewater trainings for the consortium, as this is a testament to the high quality programs offered here at Solano Community College!"

"These federal grants are part of the Obama administration's ongoing commitment to strengthen American businesses by strengthening the American workforce. This strategic investment will

enhance ties among community colleges, universities, employers, and other local partners while ensuring students have access to the skills and resources needed to compete for high-wage, high-skill careers,” commented Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis. These awards represent the second round of a four-year, \$2 billion program to satisfy President Obama’s goal that every American has at least one year of postsecondary education and that the U.S. will have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020.

For information about SCC’s Career Technical Education programs, contact Maire Morinec, Dean, School of Career Technical Education & Business, at maire.morinec@solano.edu or 707.864.7155.

For information about SCC’s Workforce and Economic Development, contact Deborah Mann, Director of Workforce & Economic Development, at deborah.mann@solano.edu or 707.864.7195.

About Solano Community College:

The College has served as the preeminent educational institution in Solano County since 1945 when it was founded as Vallejo Junior College. In the early 1970s, the College moved to its present Fairfield site, and is currently serving over 20,000 students throughout the academic year.

In addition to the main campus in Fairfield, the College has one Center in Vacaville, and one in Vallejo. To further serve the community, SCC offers courses at Travis Air Force Base, and operates a School of Aeronautics at the Nut Tree Airport.

Currently, Solano Community College offers Associate Degrees and Certificates in various disciplines, to include transfer courses to CSU and UC, and provides training in several trades. For more information, please visit us at www.solano.edu.

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